

It is imperative that political leaders across the globe help to set the tone for peace by advocating non-violence.

Numerous attacks on so many innocent lives in Europe alone is so much cause for alarm: Anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts, according to FBI reports involved 870 incidents in 2012 with anti-Jewish bias motivation, including 13 violent incidents, and 625 incidents in 2013 attributed to anti-Jewish bias; an increase in violent attacks on people and places of worship; and an escalation of frequency, variety and severity of the various attacks.

Anti-Semitic attacks are threats to the fundamental rights we hold so dear in our nation.

Security and diversity of all citizens, societies and countries are sacrosanct in our nation.

This is why the United States joined forces with France and the United Kingdom in recognition of the importance of partnership, training and information sharing between government entities and the Jewish community security groups with the eye towards the safety and security of Jewish communities.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, information sharing initiatives such as our national "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign implemented by our nation's Department of Homeland Security is a critical initiative that will enable prevention of anti-Semitic violent attacks on individuals and communities.

This bill is also critical because it urges the United States Government, the Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, Director of the FBI to engage their European counterparts to partner in the protection of the Jewish community in Europe.

This Bill reaffirms the very important U.S. support for the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat anti-Semitism with the eye towards fostering and facilitating international religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 354 because it supports an end to the dramatic increase of the number of violent anti-Semitic attacks in some European countries.

These attacks, increasingly targeting places of ordinary daily life like market places and places of worship must stop.

Thus, I support and urge enhanced partnerships between governments and Jewish community groups—which are critical to helping keep Jewish communities secure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, November 2, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 582.

RECOGNIZING REAL SCHOOL GARDENS' 100TH LEARNING GARDEN IN TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize REAL School Gardens' 100th learning garden at Jerry Junkins Elementary School, which will be the fifth REAL School Garden in the 24th district of Texas. REAL School Gardens is a nonprofit organization that has been creating outdoor learning gardens in low-income elementary schools since 2003. Once this 100th outdoor classroom is completed, the organization will have engaged more than 100,000 students in Texas in hands-on curricula integrating science with language arts.

REAL School Gardens' strong commitment to having local communities invested in the design, build, and use of the school gardens is truly impressive. Each REAL School Garden involves a partnership between students and their parents, the school, and private funders. Once a school is selected, REAL School Gardens works with the principal and teachers to host a student design challenge. The community then comes together for a "Design and Dine" dinner to tailor the garden plan to the school's culture and learning objectives.

Once the design is finalized, everyone, including corporate partners such as Mercedes Benz Financial Services, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, and Wells Fargo, participates in the "Big Dig"—an event when the community builds the garden in just one day. The results have been remarkable. In my district, there are outdoor learning gardens with earth science stations, drip irrigation systems, weather data stations, and wildlife habitats that serve as learning tools that have helped participating schools in Texas have standardized test score pass rates jump 12 to 15 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate REAL School Gardens on this achievement and wish the organization the best with the next 100 REAL School Gardens. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating such an accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF PROJECT BLUE NOVEMBER IN WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the efforts of those in my district who are promoting Project Blue November, which seeks to raise awareness of Type 1 Diabetes. Diabetes is prevalent in millions of people of all ages in the United States, including approximately 200,000 people under the age of 20 that have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. It is because of children like seven-year-old Ainsley Jackson of Milton, West Virginia, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at an early age, that we must do all we can to combat this disease.

Increasing awareness within our communities of the symptoms and risk factors related to diabetes improve the chances that those with the condition will get the care and attention they need before the severe complications of diabetes develop. That is why the actions of those promoting the goals of Project Blue November are critically important to spread throughout our communities in West Virginia and the United States.

With the promotion efforts of those like the Milton City Council in my district, I am certain Project Blue November's goal of raising awareness of Type 1 Diabetes will be successful in having a positive impact on the lives of many families in West Virginia.

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a longstanding member of the Congressional Animal Rights Caucus and champion of wildlife preservation and protection of animals, I rise in support of H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act by Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman ROYCE of California.

Earlier this year, in light of the brutal killing of Cecil the Lion, I introduced and sought the support of my colleagues as original co-sponsors of my legislation entitled, Cecil the Lion Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 2015.

H.R. 2494 embodies the purpose of my legislation by strengthening partner countries' capacity in countering wildlife trafficking and designating major wildlife countries for protection.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation on Cecil the Lion amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the taking and transportation of any endangered or threatened species as a trophy into the United States.

This current legislation crystallizes our bipartisan collective efforts to address and tackle a yearly \$7 to \$10 billion illicit venture that seeks to destroy endangered and troubled wildlife.

Currently, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not protect the vast majority of wild animals killed and imported.

While the ESA allows for the importation of endangered and threatened species for scientific research, propagation or survival of the species, hunters are abusing this limited exception to murder and transport protected wildlife for sport.

As a result of this loophole, tens of thousands of wild animals are killed every year by trophy hunters and transported into the United States.

The conservation of endangered and threatened species is critically important to the sustainability of our biodiversity, ecosystem and the beauty of wildlife as we know it.

Terrorist organizations are not only proving to be a threat to global security but also a threat to our environment and natural wildlife, utilizing the funds from their illicit activity of wildlife poaching to fund their terroristic activities.

Vulnerable species are at the mercy of transnational terrorist groups whose actions